

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 014680
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA/VLC:FZBROWN/FMLC
APPROVED BY EA:RHOLBROOKE
HA:KHILL
S/S-O:SVALERGA
-----057304 191449Z /43

R 190105Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
CINCPAC

S E C R E T STATE 014680

EXDIS PARIS FOR MARK PRATTMILITARY HANDLE AS SPECAT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PDIP, PINS, MILL, SHUM, PFOR, CASC, LA, US

SUBJECT: MIA'S IN LPDR

REF: VIENTIANE 0049

THE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT PLAN TO INVITE LAO REPRESENTA-
1. THE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT PLAN TO INVITE LAO REPRESENTA-
TIVES TO VISIT U.S. CENTRAL IDENTIFICATION LABORATORY IN
NEAR FUTURE. WE DO NOT WANT TO INVITE LAO AT SAME TIME
AS THE VIETNAMESE (MARCH-APRIL 1978) FOR THE FOLLOWING
REASONS:

A) SO FAR WE HAVE RECEIVED NO MIA INFORMATION OR REMAINS
WHATSOEVER FROM THE LAO. UNTIL THEY COME UP WITH SOMETHING,
IT SEEMS INAPPROPRIATE TO INVITE THEM TO STUDY OUR IDENTI-
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FICATION METHODS.

B) TO HAVE THE LAO TAG ALONG, INVITED WELL AFTER THE
DECEMBER 20 PARIS ANNOUNCEMENT, WOULD IMPLY THAT THEY ARE
PART OF THE VIETNAMESE MIA SEARCH EFFORT. WE DO NOT WISH
TO PROMOTE THIS LINKAGE IN EITHER THE PUBLIC MIND OR WITH
THE LAO OR VIETNAMESE.

C) POLITICALLY, BOTH THE VIETNAMESE AND THE LAO WOULD BE UNCOMFORTABLE LUMPED TOGETHER IN THE SAME HAWAII VISIT. BOTH ARE ALREADY SENSITIVE TO THE LPDR'S CLIENT STATUS. THE LAO PIGGYBACKING WOULD REINFORCE THIS IMPRESSION. IT WOULD BE PARTICULARLY EMBARRASSING TO THE SRV IN VIEW OF CAMBODIAN CHARGES THAT VIETNAM IS SEEKING TO DOMINATE INDOCHINA.

2. WE AGREE THAT AT SOME POINT IT COULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE THE LAO VISIT THE CIL AS AN INDICATION OF CONTINUED MIA INTEREST. THERE IS OBVIOUSLY RHYTHM IN ALL OF THIS, HOWEVER, AND WE WISH TO HAVE AT LEAST SOME MIA INFORMATION AND/OR REMAINS (AND TO HAVE THE VIETNAMESE CIL VISIT SUCCESSFULLY OUT OF THE WAY) BEFORE WE TAKE ON THE LAO.

3. WE HAVE EXPLAINED THIS TO CONGRESSMAN MONTGOMERY'S OFFICE AND BELIEVE HE WILL NOT PUSH FOR A LAO VISIT IN NEAR FUTURE.
CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

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